

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 1-11 are currently pending in the instant application. Claims 1-3 have been amended and claims 4-11 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. The subject matter of additional claims 4-11 is fully supported by the original written description, including, but not limited to FIGs. 1 and 2 and the supporting description at pages 6-8 of the specification.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Cortjens et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,598,209). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify the claimed invention for the benefit of the Examiner. However, Applicant submits that this claim has been amended to merely

explicitly state those features that were already implicitly claimed in claim 1. Accordingly, this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot.

Specifically, Applicant submits that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the unique combination of limitations of the claimed invention. With respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the unique combination of limitations of the claimed invention, including the feature(s) of: “and said control signal *being data for directly controlling at least one of the remote control pan head and the camera. . .a data converter which detects a data format of a communication data outputted from the operation part and converts the communication data outputted from the operation part including the control signal into a data format used in serial communication which conforms with a data format for the remote control pan head if the data format of the communication data differs from the data format for the remote control pan head*, and transmits the converted communication data to the remote control pan head.” (emphasis added) Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Cortjens et al. describe a video conferencing system, wherein the network converter 11 converts signals from the mouse 12 or the joystick 18 into signals appropriate for the pan/tilt mechanism (Col. 6, lines 48-51). However, Cortjens et al. fail to teach or suggest a converter that converts a control signal

for controlling a pan head system into a data format applicable to a remote control pan head. Further, unlike the claimed invention, Cortjens is not related to a TV camera. Accordingly, the unique communication format of the control unit in the claimed invention is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

The Examiner has cited the mouse (12) of the videoconferencing system of Cortjens as being analogous to the claimed invention. However, the mouse (12) of Cortjens is not a mouse specialized for controlling a pan tilt head. Instead, the mouse (12) is a mouse that is commonly used for operation with a PC. In a commonly used mouse, a counting device converts the pulse that is generated during the operation of the mouse to a numerical value, and then the numerical value is converted into the command data with a protocol format of PS/2 port and input into the PC. It seems that the TV conferencing system of Cortjens converts the input data with the protocol format of PS/2 port into the data representing the moving amount of a pan or tilt by CPU for controlling a camera system of the video conferencing system. Applicant submits that the Examiner has improperly assumed that this data conversion is equivalent to the data conversion recited in claim 1 of the present invention.

As argued previously, the present invention does not indicate the data, which is quite irrelevant to the control of the pan tilt head, is converted into the

data for controlling the pan tilt head. Since such a conversion is not limited to the pan tilt head, a so-called operation unit generally performs such a conversion.

In contrast to Cortjens, the claimed invention aims to convert the command data that controls the existing pan tilt head or the pan tilt head of the devices of other companies into a command data for controlling the pan tilt head with a new protocol format. Cortjens differs greatly from the present invention in this respect. In order to further demonstrate this point, Applicant have provided FIG. A and FIG. B hereinafter to demonstrate how the claimed invention (FIG. B) permits the operation of different types of cameras to be used and controlled within the same system. In contrast, Cortjens (FIG. A), is a system that inherently relies upon the operation of cameras of the same, standard camera type.

FIG. A

Cortjens

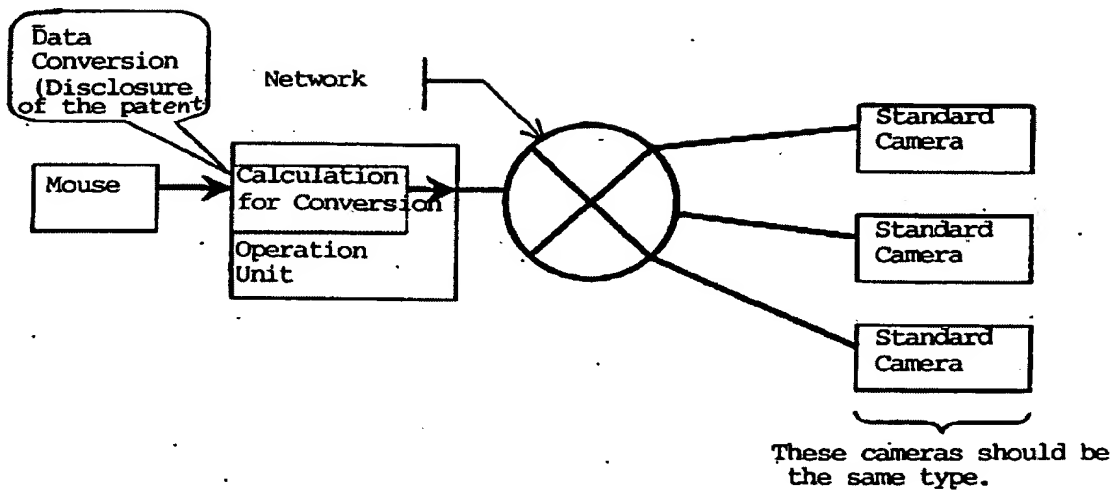
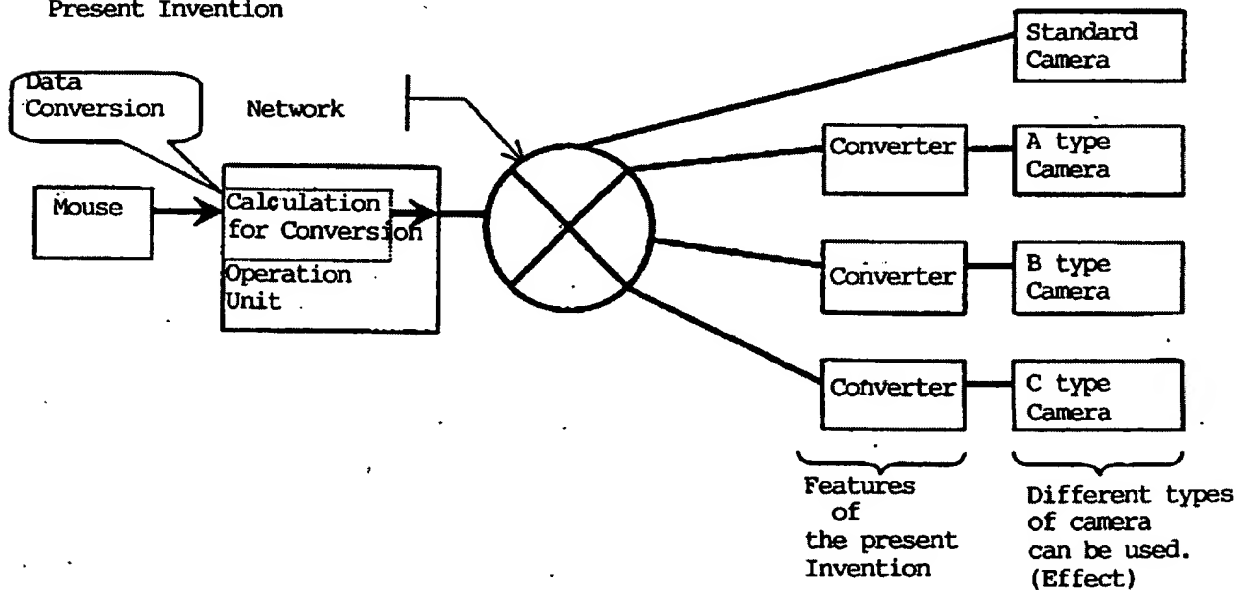


FIG. B

Present Invention



As seen in FIG. A and FIG. B, the data to be converted in the present invention is different from the data to be converted in the Cortjens reference Cortjens. As shown in Fig. A, the Cortjens patent describes that the data converter must first recognize that the operation is conducted by a different medium such as the mouse or joystick, and the data is then converted only after it is recognized. Further, the data to be converted is not data for controlling the pan tilt head, but the data having a data format suited for the mouse or the joystick. The present invention does not require such recognition. The claimed invention describes that the data that is input into the data converter is exactly the one for conducting the operation of the pan tilt head. In addition, because the data is converted into the data with a different or new protocol format, the recognition of the operation medium is not necessary as it is in Cortjens.

Additionally, the connecting state and the configuration of the converting unit are greatly different between the present invention and Cortjens. Cortjens describes that the data from the mouse or joystick, which is not limited to the control of the pan tilt head, is directly converted by an operation unit connecting to the mouse or joystick. The data is transmitted to the communication device (ex. Network) and the camera which receives the data

converts the data as a signal instead of dealing with it as the data. The signal disclosed by Cortjens is not the numerical value data but a voltage value or pulse of PWM control.

The claimed invention utilizes data for controlling the pan tilt head transmitted on the communication device (such as the network or public line network). Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify this feature of the claimed invention for the benefit of the Examiner. The receiving side of the data converts the data into a data type that is adapted to the pan tilt head, which is an object of the controller for transmitting the data into the pan tilt head.

In contrast to Cortjens, the claimed invention does not utilize a device that converts the data into the signal as defined by Cortjens. The claimed invention does not utilize the data conversion by the operation unit side. Applicant submits that these are significant differences in configuration between the claimed invention and Cortjens that the Examiner has not appreciated in his analysis. Accordingly, the rejections based upon Cortjens should be withdrawn.

As to the dependent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional limitations provided by these claims.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state-of-the-art, no further comments are deemed necessary with respect thereto.

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

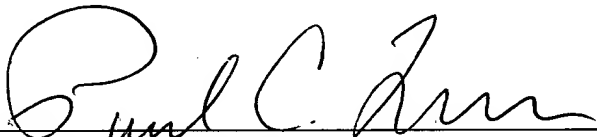
Applicant respectfully petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and § 1.17 for a two-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. The Extension of Time Fee in the amount of **\$450.00** is attached hereto.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew T. Shanley, Registration No. 47,074 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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